



In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Doctor of Philosophy
Tamara Hope Lawless

Will defend her prospectus

**Harnessing the impact of schools:
New insights for sustainable community development**

As public interest in sustainability has gained traction, many schools have attempted to incorporate it into their curricula and practices in the hopes that they can change their school and communities for the better. Unfortunately, this comes at a time where school resources are shrinking just as rapidly as sustainability problems are expanding. This dissertation will embark on an in-depth exploration of the unique role schools may play in contributing toward a sustainable future for their communities, and the tools our field can lend them to assist in these efforts. A review and analysis of the current utilization of schools as agents of sustainable development will be followed by the development of a framework to aid in the assessment of school-community engagements. This framework will be utilized by both the researcher and by area schools to categorize and assess their school-community sustainability efforts. The final stage of this dissertation combines methods from the fields of sustainable development, transition management, and social change to guide three schools in their attempts to increase community sustainability through addressing a shared sustainability problem: childhood obesity.

Monday, October 29th, 2012
10:00 a.m.
Wrigley Hall, Room 102

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.

Supervisory Committee:

Aaron Golub (Chair)
Charles Redman
Daniel Schugurensky